

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 733

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Harry A. Green
for his meritorious service as the Executive
Director of the Tennessee Advisory
Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry A. Green, Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, is one such commendable public servant and a source of knowledge and expertise in state government who is respected nationally by his peers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green was born March 24, 1933, in Wilson County, Tennessee. He served honorably in the United States Army from 1953 through 1955, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Middle Tennessee State University in 1957, and subsequently earned a Master of Science degree in Public Administration at Florida State University in 1958 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Administration at the University of Colorado in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Green has served in numerous academic positions, including professorships at Middle Tennessee State University, Florida State University, George Washington University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Ife, Nigeria; Associate Dean at Georgia State University; and Dean and Department Head at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green was appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Economic Opportunity, Office of the Governor of the State of Florida, in 1966; Director, Federal Relations and Neighborhood Centers and Special Assistant for Model Cities, U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development, in 1966; and Chief, Research and Statistics, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee, in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry Green was appointed the first Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in 1981 and has served admirably in that capacity ever since. The esteemed Representative John T. Bragg, first Chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, referred to the Advisory Commission as a unique forum and as a source of information, innovation, and motivation for making government better in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Green's leadership, the Advisory Commission has played an important role in developing many of the key issues that have shaped state government in Tennessee over the last thirty years. Among a multitude of other achievements, the Advisory Commission has served as a source of expertise to state and local officials and has been instrumental in improving education funding, local planning, industrial development, emergency communications, and the administration of the property tax; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harry A. Green has greatly enhanced the ability of elected officials to improve the government performance and the quality of life for Tennesseans by providing expert testimony to and on behalf of the State on critical aspects of education finance, utility regulation, and state and local tax systems, among others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green has been active in numerous professional organizations and state government associations, holding membership and positions of leadership in the American Economic Association, National Tax Association, American Society for Public Administration, Society for International Development, World Future Society, and American Education Finance Association; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Commission, under Dr. Green's leadership, has been recognized by the Governmental Research Association with an Award for Most Distinguished Research, an Award for Special Achievement, a Certificate of Merit for Most Distinguished Research, a Certificate of Merit for Special Achievement, a Certificate of Merit for Effective Education, and two Certificates of Merit for Effective Citizen Education; by the National

Association of Development Organizations with an Innovation Award; and by the American Library Association with a Notable Document Award; and

WHEREAS, the complexity of the issues addressed by Dr. Green and the Advisory Commission was recognized with the tongue-in-cheek award of the Boris Karloff Award by the equally tongue-in-cheek Academy of Politicos, Pundits, and Influence Peddlers upon the occasion of Governor Phil Bredesen's description of the fiscal capacity formula developed by the Advisory Commission as "the work of a mad scientist"; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Bragg, who, as mayor of Murfreesboro, represents Tennessee municipalities on the Advisory Commission, commended Dr. Green, noting that his integrity and resourcefulness have perpetuated cooperation and open problem-solving across Tennessee governments, making our state stronger and resilient for years to come. Mayor Bragg, reflecting on his father, former Representative John Bragg, who served in the Tennessee General Assembly representing Cannon and Rutherford counties for thirty years and chaired the Commission for its first eighteen years, said, "My dad loved Harry Green, and Harry had a great love and reverence for the legislature that Dad shared. They were like-minded when it came to solving the administrative issues facing local and state government. Their respect for the institution of the Assembly and those who served there was and has been a benefit and a gift to Tennesseans that cannot be exaggerated or repaid. Dad was honored to have been placed on the Commission and even more appreciative to serve as chair. Without their willingness together to study issues from all sides, the Tennessee Commission may have had a shortened life"; and

WHEREAS, former Senator Robert Rochelle, who served in the Tennessee General Assembly for twenty years and chaired the Commission for six years, commented on Dr. Green's legacy, noting that "lives are being saved today because of TACIR's efforts in improving E-911, citizens' tax dollars are being better spent, and water supplies are being better conserved, all because of Dr. Green and TACIR," and adding that "Harry is now Tennessee's principal institutional historian"; and

WHEREAS, former Representative Randy Rinks, who served in the Tennessee General Assembly for eighteen years and chaired the Commission for six years, referred to Dr. Green as

one of the brightest people that he had the privilege of serving with, adding “Dr. Green really loved public policy and had a very deep compassion and commitment to the many issues that we worked on through the years”; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tom Varlan, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, who served on the Commission for eight years, said that Dr. Green embodies the goals of TACIR itself, including to “serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems,” and that Dr. Green's “work ethic, personality, and service to the State of Tennessee have enabled TACIR to fulfill in exemplary fashion its statutory goals relating to a wide range of public policy and intergovernmental issues.” Judge Varlan asserts, “the State of Tennessee, as well as multitudes of local governments, has been well served by Dr. Green's able leadership at TACIR. His leadership and skills will be missed, but his contributions will always be greatly appreciated”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mark Norris, Senate Majority Leader and TACIR Chair, has said, “During my eleven years of service on the Commission, Dr. Green has been instrumental in giving guidance as history was made. Our policies in education, finance, municipal planning, water resources, TVA, and illegal immigration have all been shaped in some respect by Harry Green”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green has decided to retire from service to the State of Tennessee after more than thirty-nine years of service, occasioning regret among his many friends in the General Assembly who have benefitted from his expertise and knowledge over the last several decades; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Harry A. Green for meritorious service as Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission and salute his commitment during his many years of outstanding service to the government and the citizens of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we join his beloved wife, the former Carolyn Jennings of Nashville, his two children, and his four grandchildren in wishing him all the best in his upcoming retirement and offer our heartfelt thanks as members of the General Assembly, on

behalf of the citizens of Tennessee, for his dedication to serving the people of this state and advancing the cause of good government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.